

HART-TEETER
1724 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009
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Interviews: 1002 adults
Dates: January 25-27, 1997

47 Male
53 Female
[5]

FINAL

Study #4077
NBC News/WSJ
January 1997

AR	TYPE	SA	FORM	DA
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[6]	[7]	[8]	[9]	[10]
[11]	[12]	[13]	[14]	

January 1997

1. All in all, do you think things in the nation are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel that things are off on the wrong track?¹

	1/97	12/96	11/96	10/96+	9/96+	8/2- 6/96+	6/96+	5/96+	3/96	1/96	12/95	
Right direction.....	46	46	41 [±]	42	39	37	32	28	29	25	30	[15]
Wrong track.....	38	38	40	39	44	43	49	52	54	54	50	
Mixed (VOL).....	12	13	16	14	13	16	14	15	12	14	14	
Not sure.....	4	3	3	5	4	4	5	5	5	7	6	

¹ Only selected months of comparable data shown.

+ Asked only of registered voters.

- 2a. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job Bill Clinton is doing as president?

	1/97	12/96	10/96+	9/96+	8/20- 21/96+	8/2- 6/96+	7/96+	6/96+	5/96+	3/96	
Approve.....	60	58	56	55	53	54	54	53	52	51	[18]
Disapprove.....	32	34	37	38	38	36	33	39	40	39	
Not sure.....	8	8	7	7	9	10	13	8	8	10	

	1/96	12/95	11/95	10/95	9/95	7/95	6/95	4/21- 25/95	4/3- 4/95	
	46	51	49	46	46	47	46	50	46	
	43	40	42	43	43	44	42	39	44	
	11	9	9	11	11	9	12	11	10	

	3/95	1/95	12/94	11/9/ 9/94+	11/4- 5/94+	10/94	9/94	7/94	6/94	5/94	
	44	45	48	43	44	48	44	49	52	57	
	45	43	44	48	44	43	48	44	39	37	
	11	12	8	9	12	9	8	7	9	6	

	3/94	1/94	12/93	10/93	9/93	7/93	6/93	4/93	3/93	1/93	
	55	60	56	47	50	45	41	52	57	51	
	36	31	33	43	39	45	50	34	26	16	
	9	9	11	10	11	10	9	14	17	33	

+ Asked only of registered voters.

2b. Do you generally approve or disapprove of the job Bill Clinton is doing in handling the economy?

	<u>1/97*</u>	<u>12/96</u>	<u>10/96+</u>	<u>9/96+</u>	<u>8/2-</u>		<u>6/96+</u>	<u>5/96+</u>	<u>3/96</u>	<u>1/96</u>	<u>12/95</u>	<u>10/95</u>	[17]
Approve.....	58	59	55	54	55	53	53	50	44	47	42		
Disapprove.....	35	32	37	35	35	39	38	42	47	43	46		
Not sure.....	7	9	8	11	10	8	9	8	9	10	12		
		<u>9/95</u>	<u>7/95</u>	<u>6/95</u>	<u>4/21-</u>		<u>25/95</u>	<u>3/95</u>	<u>1/95</u>	<u>12/94</u>	<u>10/94</u>	<u>9/94</u>	<u>7/94</u>
		42	48	43	52	43	50	46	44	40	45		
		47	42	48	39	46	38	46	47	51	46		
		11	10	9	9	11	12	8	9	9	9		
	<u>6/94</u>	<u>5/94</u>	<u>3/94</u>	<u>1/94</u>	<u>12/93</u>	<u>10/93</u>	<u>9/93</u>	<u>7/93</u>	<u>6/93</u>	<u>4/93</u>	<u>3/93</u>		
	48	43	47	50	48	40	42	40	33	45	52		
	41	46	43	39	39	50	48	51	56	40	28		
	11	11	10	11	13	10	10	9	11	15	20		

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

+ Asked only of registered voters.

2c. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job Bill Clinton is doing in handling our foreign policy?

	<u>1/97**</u>	<u>12/96</u>	<u>10/96+</u>	<u>9/96+</u>	<u>8/2-</u>		<u>6/96+</u>	<u>5/96</u>	<u>3/96</u>	<u>1/96</u>	<u>12/95</u>	<u>10/95</u>	[18]
Approve.....	57	49	50	49	51	48	48	48	48	49	46	42	
Disapprove.....	34	37	38	38	35	38	42	42	42	38	44	45	
Not sure.....	9	14	12	13	14	14	10	10	10	13	10	13	
		<u>9/95</u>	<u>7/95</u>	<u>6/95</u>	<u>4/21-</u>		<u>25/95</u>	<u>3/95</u>	<u>1/95</u>	<u>12/94</u>	<u>10/94</u>	<u>9/94</u>	<u>7/94</u>
		42	37	39	46	37	50	44	45	32	34		
		45	48	46	41	47	38	45	46	60	54		
		13	15	15	13	16	12	11	9	8	12		
	<u>6/94</u>	<u>5/94</u>	<u>3/94</u>	<u>1/94</u>	<u>12/93</u>	<u>10/93</u>	<u>9/93</u>	<u>7/93</u>	<u>6/93</u>	<u>4/93</u>	<u>3/93</u>		
	34	36	47	53	45	33	47	50	38	47	47		
	54	51	39	31	40	58	34	36	43	30	22		
	12	13	14	16	15	9	19	14	19	23	31		

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

+ Asked only of registered voters.

3a. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job Congress is doing?¹

	<u>1/97*</u>	<u>10/96+</u>	<u>9/96+</u>	<u>8/2-</u>		<u>6/96+</u>	<u>5/96+</u>	<u>3/96</u>	<u>1/96</u>	<u>12/95</u>	<u>10/95</u>	<u>9/95</u>	[19]
Approve.....	39	39	40	35	27	25	25	26	32	31	30		
Disapprove.....	50	50	44	55	60	68	64	65	57	59	58		
Not sure.....	11	11	16	10	13	7	11	9	11	10	12		

¹ Only selected months of comparable data are shown.

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

+ Asked only of registered voters.

3b. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Newt Gingrich is doing as speaker of the House of Representatives?

	<u>1/97**</u>	<u>1/96</u>	<u>12/95</u>	<u>11/95</u>	<u>10/95</u>	<u>6/95</u>	<u>4/21- 25/95</u>	<u>4/3- 4/95</u>	<u>3/95</u>	<u>1/95</u>	
Approve.....	29	29	32	27	35	39	45	40	37	32	[20]
Disapprove.....	57	57	56	60	46	35	36	41	43	26	
Not sure.....	14	14	12	13	19	26	19	19	20	42	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

4. I'm going to read you the names of several public figures and institutions, and I'd like you to rate your feelings toward each one as either very positive, somewhat positive, neutral, somewhat negative, or very negative. If you don't know the name, please just say so.

	<u>Very Positive</u>	<u>Somewhat Positive</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Somewhat Negative</u>	<u>Very Negative</u>	<u>Don't Know Name/ Not Sure</u>	
Bill Clinton¹							[21]
January 1997.....	25	30	16	15	13	1	
December 1996.....	22	32	15	15	16	-	
November 1996+.....	22	26	13	15	23	1	
October 1996+.....	26	28	13	12	21	-	
September 1996+.....	24	29	14	13	20	-	
August 20-21, 1996+.....	23	27	15	13	21	1	
August 2-6, 1996+.....	21	32	16	13	18	-	
June 1996+.....	22	29	14	15	20	-	
May 1996+.....	20	31	15	15	19	-	
March 1996.....	18	33	17	14	18	-	
January 1996.....	17	29	16	18	19	1	
Trent Lott							[22]
January 1997.....	6	10	14	3	2	65	
December 1996.....	5	9	18	4	2	62	
Hillary Rodham Clinton¹							[23]
January 1997.....	18	25	19	16	20	2	
December 1996.....	15	24	22	15	22	2	
October 1996+.....	20	24	17	13	25	1	
September 1996+.....	19	24	16	15	25	1	
August 20-21, 1996+.....	15	24	15	15	29	2	
August 2-6, 1996+.....	15	26	18	15	24	2	
June 1996+.....	14	21	19	17	27	2	
May 1996+.....	14	20	19	17	27	3	
March 1996.....	15	23	18	16	26	2	
January 1996.....	13	22	19	19	25	2	
December 1995.....	19	27	19	12	21	2	

¹ Only selected months of comparable data are shown.

+ Asked only of registered voters.

Q.4. (cont'd.)

	<u>Very Positive</u>	<u>Somewhat Positive</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Somewhat Negative</u>	<u>Very Negative</u>	<u>Don't Know Name/ Not Sure</u>	
The Democratic Party¹							[24]
January 1997.....	16	31	24	17	11	1	
October 1996+.....	18	26	23	16	15	2	
September 1996+.....	17	29	20	17	15	2	
August 20-21, 1996+.....	19	27	21	15	17	1	
August 2-6, 1996+.....	14	29	24	18	13	2	
June 1996+.....	17	29	23	15	15	1	
May 1996+.....	14	29	23	15	17	2	
March 1996.....	13	28	25	19	12	3	
December 1995.....	11	28	24	21	14	2	
October 1995.....	13	24	27	21	12	3	
April 21-25, 1995.....	13	26	27	20	12	2	
The Republican Party¹							[25]
January 1997.....	10	32	26	20	11	1	
October 1996+.....	12	26	27	18	15	2	
September 1996+.....	11	29	22	20	16	2	
August 20-21, 1996+.....	16	25	25	17	16	1	
August 2-6, 1996+.....	11	28	25	19	15	2	
June 1996+.....	11	25	25	21	16	2	
May 1996+.....	11	28	20	21	17	3	
March 1996.....	10	27	22	22	17	2	
December 1995.....	12	28	22	19	17	2	
October 1995.....	12	28	24	17	17	2	
April 21-25, 1995.....	15	29	23	17	14	2	
Jesse Jackson							[26]
January 1997.....	13	24	25	16	18	4	
December 1995.....	6	20	24	20	26	4	
October 1995.....	6	18	29	20	24	3	
June 1995.....	7	22	31	19	17	4	
March 1995.....	7	20	25	20	23	5	
September 1994.....	8	18	28	21	20	5	
July 1994.....	9	18	26	20	22	5	
July 1992.....	5	17	25	21	29	3	
May 1992.....	7	22	25	18	24	4	
February 1992.....	8	21	23	20	24	4	
October 1991.....	9	22	22	21	22	4	
October 1990.....	12	25	24	17	18	4	
March 1990.....	15	28	24	14	15	4	
November 1989.....	15	30	23	16	13	3	

¹ Only selected months of comparable data are shown.

+ Asked only of registered voters.

Q.4. (cont'd.)

	<u>Very Positive</u>	<u>Somewhat Positive</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Somewhat Negative</u>	<u>Very Negative</u>	<u>Don't Know Name/ Not Sure</u>	
Al Gore¹							[27]
January 1997.....	22	29	24	12	11	2	
December 1996.....	17	30	26	12	12	3	
October 1996+.....	22	29	22	11	13	3	
September 1996+.....	20	29	23	14	11	3	
August 20-21, 1996+.....	18	28	25	12	13	4	
August 2-6, 1996+.....	19	31	25	12	10	3	
June 1996+.....	17	24	30	14	11	4	
May 1996+.....	12	32	26	13	13	4	
December 1995.....	12	30	25	17	13	3	
March 1995.....	13	29	28	15	12	3	
January 1995.....	12	27	29	17	10	5	
Newt Gingrich¹							[28]
January 1997.....	6	16	18	24	31	5	
December 1996.....	8	13	22	21	29	7	
October 1996+.....	9	12	17	17	39	6	
September 1996+.....	8	19	16	18	33	6	
August 2-6, 1996+.....	8	17	19	21	30	5	
June 1996+.....	7	15	21	19	32	6	
May 1996+.....	7	15	18	21	33	6	
March 1996.....	6	16	21	18	33	6	
January 1996.....	7	16	17	20	34	6	
December 1995.....	9	18	16	18	33	6	
October 1995.....	9	19	21	17	26	8	

¹ Only selected months of comparable data are shown.

+ Asked only of registered voters.

5. What would you say are the **two or three** most important issues or problems facing the nation today that you personally would like to see the federal government in Washington do something about? (**DO NOT READ CHOICES. ACCEPT NO MORE THAN THREE RESPONSES.**)

	<u>1/97</u>	<u>12/95</u>	<u>1/95</u>	<u>1/94</u>	<u>1/93</u>	
<u>ECONOMY</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>48</u>	
Economy generally.....	11	10	6	9	22	[29]
Farm problems, agriculture, drought.....	1	1	-	1	-	>
Inflation, prices.....	1	1	2	2	2	
Interest rates.....	-	1	-	-	1	
Jobs, unemployment.....	12	16	13	20	25	
New industry needed.....	-	1	-	1	1	
Trade, limit imports ¹	1	-	1	1	2	
Trade, expand exports ¹	-	-	NA	NA	NA	
Wages, better jobs.....	3	3	2	2	2	
<u>FOREIGN POLICY/DEFENSE</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>17</u>	
Defense spending--cut defense budget.....	1	1	-	1	1	[30]
Defense--strengthen.....	2	1	2	2	1	>
Foreign aid--reduce.....	2	3	4	3	2	
Foreign policy.....	3	3	3	3	4	
Middle East, Iraq.....	-	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Russia, former Soviet republics.....	-					
War; keep peace; nuclear arms race.....	1	2	1	1	2	
Bosnia, Serbia, Yugoslavia.....	-	3	-	1	1	
<u>CRIME/DRUGS</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>13</u>	
Gun control--against.....	1	1	1	3	-	[31]
Gun control--for.....	2	2	2	5	1	>
TV violence.....	1	1	-	1	NA	
Crime, violence.....	22	33	30	33	9	
Drugs.....	12	8	7	11	6	
<u>TAXES/GOVERNMENT SPENDING</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>37</u>	
Budget deficit.....	13	13	13	7	24	[32]
Government waste, mismanagement.....	4	5	6	5	5	>
Taxes--too high.....	7	4	9	5	6	
Taxes--unfair.....	2	3	4	1	4	
Government spending.....	3	3	3	NA	NA	
Government too big ²	1	2	NA	NA	NA	
<u>SOCIAL PROGRAMS</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>35</u>	
Children, day care ³	1	2	1	1	2	[33]
Education, schools.....	23	24	13	14	14	>
Welfare, reform ⁴	19	12	25	6	3	
Homelessness, housing.....	6	5	9	13	13	
Poverty, social services ⁵	4	5	5	4	3	
AIDS.....	-	1	1	1	3	
Social Security, senior citizens.....	14	7	6	2	3	

¹ Prior to December 1995, trade was listed as one item, and was titled "trade, imports".

² Prior to January 1997, category was titled "less government/interference in our lives".

³ Prior to January 1995, the category was titled "child care, day care".

⁴ Prior to January 1995, welfare reform was included in the taxes/government spending group instead of the social problems group.

⁵ Prior to December 1995, the category was titled "poverty, social services".

Q.5. (cont'd.)

	<u>1/97</u>	<u>12/95</u>	<u>1/95</u>	<u>1/94</u>	<u>1/93</u>	
HEALTH CARE ⁶	23	11	25	35	38	
Cost.....	7	6	14	21	NA	[34]
Access.....	6	5	11	13	NA	>
Quality.....	5	3	5	6	NA	
Medicare.....	8	NA	NA	NA	NA	
OTHER DOMESTIC PROBLEMS	21	17	15	12	18	
Abortion--pro-choice.....	2	1	1	1	4	[35]
Abortion--pro-life.....	3	2	3	2	5	>
Censorship, limiting free speech.....	-	1	-	1	1	
Morality, values.....	5	8	3	4	3	
Racism.....	3	3	2	2	1	
Environment, pollution, toxic wastes.....	4	2	2	2	3	
Government corruption/ethics in government ⁷	2	3	2	2	NA	
Campaign finance reform.....	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Reforming Congress.....	-	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Illegal immigration.....	2	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Other	2	4	5	3	2	
None/not sure	3	6	4	4	3	

⁶Prior to January 1995, category was titled "Health care, costs", and was not broken out into cost, access, and quality components.

⁷Prior to January 1997, the category was titled "government corruption".

- 6a. As you may know, the Congress and the presidency are controlled by different parties. Do you think this divided government does or does not work well for the country?

	<u>1/97</u>	<u>12/96</u>	
Does work well for the country.....	58	56	[36]
Does not work well for the country...	34	36	
Not sure.....	8	8	

- 6b. Who do you want to see take the lead role in setting policy for the country--President Clinton or the Congress?

	<u>1/97</u>	<u>12/96</u>	<u>3/95</u>	<u>12/94</u>	<u>11/9/94</u>	
President Clinton.....	34	38	33	31	30	[37]
Congress.....	43	44	54	55	55	
Shared/equal role (VOL).....	18	14	6	8	11	
Neither (VOL).....	2	2	3	2	1	
Not sure.....	3	2	4	4	3	

+ Asked only of registered voters.

7. From what you know, do you agree or disagree with most of what the Republicans in Congress are proposing to do?

	<u>1/97</u>	<u>10/96+</u>	<u>9/96+</u>	<u>8/2- 6/96+</u>	<u>6/96+</u>	<u>5/96+</u>	<u>3/96</u>	<u>1/96</u>	<u>12/95</u>	
Agree.....	40	36	41	41	36	37	34	34	36	[38]
Disagree.....	32	43	40	38	41	43	50	48	46	
Both/mixed (VOL).....	15	10	11	14	13	13	8	7	8	
Not sure.....	13	11	8	7	10	7	8	11	10	
		<u>11/95</u>	<u>10/95</u>	<u>9/95</u>	<u>7/95</u>	<u>4/95</u>	<u>3/95</u>	<u>1/95</u>		
		36	35	32	41	46	45	49		
		49	45	45	39	39	35	22		
		8	9	13	10	8	10	9		
		7	11	10	10	7	10	20		

+ Asked only of registered voters.

- 8a. When you think about the Republican Party, what person comes to mind as its most important leader or spokesperson? *

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

	<u>1/97</u>	<u>3/96</u>	<u>12/95</u>	
Newt Gingrich.....	30	19	22	[39]
Bob Dole.....	9	30	33	
Colin Powell.....	6	2	3	
George Bush.....	4	3	3	
Trent Lott.....	4	NA	NA	
Ronald Reagan.....	3	5	3	
Jack Kemp.....	2	NA	NA	
Dick Armey.....	-	NA	NA	
Pat Buchanan.....	-	4	-	
TX Governor George Bush, Jr.....	-	NA	NA	
Pete Wilson.....	-	NA	NA	
Other.....	5	5	4	
None (VOL) ¹	NA	NA	6	
Not sure.....	37	28	22	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

¹ In December 1995, "none" was accepted as a volunteered response.

- 8b. When you think about the Democratic Party, what person comes to mind as its most important leader or spokesperson? **

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Bill Clinton.....	59	[41]
Al Gore.....	6	
Dick Gephardt.....	2	
Jesse Jackson.....	2	
Bill Bradley.....	1	
Ted Kennedy.....	1	
Hillary Clinton.....	1	
Tom Daschle.....	-	
Other	4	
Not sure.....	24	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

- 9a. What best describes your feeling about what Bill Clinton will do in his second term -- excited, optimistic but not excited, concerned but not scared, or scared?

	<u>1/97*</u>	<u>11/96¹</u>	
Excited.....	5	13	[42]
Optimistic, but not excited.....	45	34	
Concerned, but not scared.....	36	30	
Scared.....	12	22	
Not sure.....	2	1	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

¹ Comparative data taken from a November 1996 VNS exit poll.

- 9b. How much change do you think that Bill Clinton will bring to the country in his second term--a great deal of change, a fair amount of change, or very little change?

	<u>1/97**</u>	<u>1/93¹</u>	
A great deal of change.....	11	26	[43]
A fair amount of change.....	42	49	
Very little change.....	43	20	
No change at all (VOL).....	2	NA	
Not sure.....	2	5	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

¹ Prior to January 1997, "in his second term" was not included in the question.

10. Do you believe Hillary Clinton should or should not be involved in the development of major policy positions in the Clinton Administration?

	<u>1/97*</u>	<u>1/93</u>	
Hillary Clinton should be involved.....	31	47	[44]
Hillary Clinton should not be involved.....	65	45	
Not sure.....	4	8	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

11. Let me read you a list of things that may or may not happen in 1997. For each one I read, please tell me whether you think it is likely or not likely that this will happen in 1997. First, do you think it is likely or not likely that **(READ ITEM)** this year? *

<u>Likely</u>	<u>Not Likely</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Newt Gingrich will remain speaker of the House.....	69	29	2 [45]
President Clinton and the Congress will agree on a plan to balance the budget by 2002 46	51	3	[46]
U.S. troops will be withdrawn from Bosnia 37	57	6	[47]
Congress will pass campaign finance reform legislation.....	51	43	6 [48]
President Clinton and the Congress will agree on a plan to deal with Medicare's funding problems 49	47	4	[49]
Hillary Rodham Clinton will be indicted for her involvement in the Whitewater affair 20	72	8	[50]
Peace will come to the Middle East.....	16	82	2 [51]
The stock market will continue to do well.....	72	19	9 [52]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

12. Now I am going to read you a list of things that have been in the news lately. For each item I read, please tell me whether you think it has been getting too much attention in the press, not enough attention, or about the

right amount of attention. First, **(READ ITEM)**. Do you think this has been getting too much attention in the press, not enough attention, or about the right amount of attention? **

	Too Much <u>Attention</u>	Not Enough <u>Attention</u>	Right Amount Of <u>Attention</u>	Not <u>Sure</u>	
Reforming public education in America.....	7	64	28	1	[53]
Paula Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit against President Clinton.....	73	10	15	2	[54]
Reforming the system of campaign financing.....	21	48	28	3	[55]
O.J. Simpson's civil trial.....	92	1	6	1	[56]
The cold winter weather across the nation.....	19	8	71	2	[57]
The Democratic Party receiving questionable campaign contributions from foreign nationals.....	22	35	40	3	[58]
The violations of House rules by Speaker Newt Gingrich.....	31	25	41	3	[59]
Preserving the Social Security system.....	5	71	22	2	[60]

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

Now I have some questions on taxes and the budget . . .

13. Which of these do you think is the better way to increase economic growth -- an across-the-board cut in federal income taxes or a major reduction in the federal budget deficit?

	<u>1/97</u>	<u>8/96</u>	<u>6/96+</u>	
Across-the-board cut in federal income taxes.....	30	28	35	[61]
A major reduction in the federal budget deficit.....	60	60	51	
Not sure.....	10	12	14	

+ Asked only of registered voters.

- 14a. Do you favor or oppose a reduction in the capital gains taxes that investors pay on the sale of stocks, businesses, or other assets?

	<u>1/97</u>	<u>12/94</u>	<u>2/92</u>	<u>1/92+</u>	<u>10/91++</u>	<u>3/91</u>	<u>1/90+</u>	
Favor.....	47	43	48	42	44	45	45	[62]
Oppose.....	35	41	42	48	44	45	47	
Depends (VOL)	3	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Not sure.....	15	15	10	10	12	10	8	

+ Asked only of registered voters; question was phrased, "As you may know, the Bush Administration has proposed cutting the tax rate on capital gains--that is, the tax on profits from investments such as the sale of stocks, bonds, and real estate. Would you favor or oppose such a tax cut?"

++ Asked only of registered voters; question was phrased, "Suppose the federal government decides to cut taxes by reducing the capital gains tax rate on profits from the sale of stocks, bonds, and real estate. Would you favor or oppose this tax cut?"

- 14b. Capital gains taxes are paid to the federal government on profits from the sale of stocks, bonds, businesses, and farms. Some people claim that cutting the current capital gains tax rate would increase economic growth. Others say reducing the rate would mostly benefit the wealthy and not help the economy. Which position do you agree with more? *

Would increase economic growth.....	41	[63]
Would mostly benefit the wealthy.....	52	
Not sure.....	7	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

- 14c. If there were a cut in capital gains taxes, do you think it should be: A) a broad tax cut on profits from all investments, including stocks, bonds, and real estate, or B) a smaller, targeted tax cut on new investments in specific businesses and industries that the government thinks would most help the economy? **

A broad tax cut.....	46	[64]
A smaller, targeted tax cut.....	43	
Not sure.....	11	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

15. Do you think there will or will not be an economic recession during the next twelve months?

	<u>1/97**</u>	<u>3/96</u>	<u>12/90</u>	<u>10/90</u>	<u>9/15-18/90</u>	<u>9/4-5/90</u>	<u>8/90</u>	<u>7/90</u>	<u>5/90</u>	<u>4/90</u>	<u>3/90</u>	<u>1/90</u>	
				<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>			<u>0</u>				
Will be an economic recession..	23	32	73	66	51	58	57	25	30	23	30	31	[65]
Will not be an economic recession..	67	53	19	24	35	30	26	49	57	64	56	56	
Not sure.....	10	15	8	10	14	12	17	26	13	13	14	13	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

- 16a. Do you favor or oppose a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution?

	<u>1/97</u>	<u>12/96</u>	<u>3/95</u>	<u>1/95</u>	<u>12/94</u>	
Favor.....	70	66	71	71	68	[66]
Oppose.....	20	19	25	16	19	
Depends (VOL).....	4	5	4	4	3	
Not sure.....	6	10	-	9	10	

- 16b. If a balanced budget amendment were to be passed, do you think it should or should not include a provision that would prohibit Congress from using funds from the Social Security trust fund to balance the budget?

	<u>1/97</u>	<u>12/96</u>	<u>3/95</u>	
Should include provision.....	71	<u>6</u> 71	62	[67]
Should not include provision.....	25	25	34	
Not sure.....	4	4	4	

- 16c. From what you know, do you agree more with Bill Clinton and the Democrats **OR** more with the Republicans in Congress on the issue of the federal budget?

	<u>1/97</u>	<u>1/96</u>	<u>12/96</u>	<u>11/96</u>	<u>9/95</u>	<u>7/95</u>	<u>6/95</u>	
			<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>				
Clinton and Democrats	45	44	44	49	38	38	38	[68]
Republicans in Congress.....	37	39	41	37	41	44	41	
Both equal (VOL).....	6	6	4	4	5	4	4	
Not sure.....	12	11	11	10	16	14	17	

17. As you may know, the international value of the American dollar has risen recently. Some people say this is good for the U.S. economy because it makes imported goods less expensive for U.S. consumers. Others say this is bad for the U.S. economy because it decreases exports by making U.S. products more expensive in other countries. What is your view -- is the increasing value of the American dollar good or bad for the U.S. economy?

Good for U.S. economy.....	57	[69]
Bad for U.S. economy.....	29	
Not sure.....	14	

- 18a. Do you think it will be necessary to make major changes in the way the Social Security system operates, in order to guarantee the future financial stability of the system?

Yes, it will be necessary to make major changes.....	83	[70]
No, it will not be necessary to make major changes...	11	

Not sure..... 6

- 18b. There is a proposal that would allow people to invest some of their Social Security payroll contributions in the stock market. This change means that when people retire, their benefits could either be higher or lower than expected, depending on the stock market's performance. Would you favor or oppose this proposal to allow people to invest their Social Security payroll contributions in the stock market?

	<u>1/97*</u>	<u>12/96</u>	
Favor allowing people to invest Social Security.....	48	46	[71]
Oppose allowing people to invest Social Security.....	46	44	
Not sure.....	6	10	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

- 18c. There is a proposal that would allow people to invest some of their Social Security payroll contributions in the stock market. This change means that when people retire, their benefits could either be higher or lower than expected, depending on the stock market's performance. Thinking about the possibility of investing some of your Social Security payroll contributions in the stock market, which one of the following statements would you say best describes your opinion?

Statement A: The risk of losing money in the stock market outweighs the potential of higher returns from investing in the stock market.

Statement B: The potential of higher returns from investing in the stock market outweighs the risk of losing money in the stock market. **

Statement A: Risk outweighs potential returns.....	57	[72]
Statement B: Potential returns outweigh risk.....	37	
Not sure.....	6	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

- 18d. This proposal to allow people to invest Social Security contributions in the stock market also includes an increase in the payroll tax for current employees, as well as an increase in the federal deficit, so that benefits to current retirees also can be maintained. Do you think the benefits of allowing people to invest Social Security contributions in the stock market outweigh these costs of higher payroll taxes and deficits, or do you think the costs outweigh the benefits? *

Benefits outweigh the costs.....	22	[73]
Costs outweigh the benefits.....	61	
Not sure.....	17	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (Form A).

Now, turning to another subject...

19. I am going to read you a list of people who are active in public life. For each one, please tell me how you would rate the honesty and ethical standards of each person -- very high, high, average, low, or very low? First, **(READ ITEM.)**

	<u>Very High</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Average</u>	<u>Low</u>	<u>Very Low</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Bill Clinton.....	10	21	37	16	15	1	[74]
Newt Gingrich.....	2	7	36	32	20	3	[75]
Al Gore *.....	18	27	35	10	6	4	[76]
Billy Graham *.....	36	26	20	8	3	7	[77]
Jack Kemp *.....	9	25	37	6	3	20	[78]
O.J. Simpson **.....	1	1	13	25	56	4	[79]
Hillary Rodham Clinton **.....	8	22	37	18	14	1	[80]
Colin Powell **.....	38	38	18	2	-	4	[81]

* Asked of one-half of the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

- 20a. How confident are you that Bill Clinton has the right set of personal characteristics to be president of the United States--extremely confident, quite confident, only somewhat confident, or not at all confident?

	<u>1/97</u>	<u>12/96</u>	<u>9/96+</u>	<u>10/95</u>	<u>10/94</u>	<u>6/94</u>	<u>5/94</u>	<u>1/94</u>	
Extremely confident.....	15	12	12	9	11	11	12	11	[82]
Quite confident.....	26	23	24	19	17	19	22	24	
Only somewhat confident.....	34	33	30	40	36	37	39	38	
Not at all confident.....	24	30	30	30	34	31	25	25	
Not sure.....	1	2	4	2	2	2	2	2	

	<u>1/93</u>	<u>12/92</u>	<u>11/1/92+</u>	<u>10/92+</u>	<u>9/92+</u>
	16	13	11	14	9
	31	25	21	27	23
	37	41	34	30	37
	13	19	31	26	28
	3	2	3	3	3

+ Asked only of registered voters.

- 20b. How confident are you in Bill Clinton's honesty and truthfulness -- very confident, fairly confident, just somewhat confident, or not confident?

	<u>1/97</u>	<u>8/96</u>	<u>6/96+</u>	<u>5/96+</u>	
Very confident.....	14	12	15	14	[83]
Fairly confident.....	25	25	20	21	
Just somewhat confident.....	28	25	26	26	
Not confident.....	32	37	37	38	
Not sure.....	1	1	2	1	

+ Asked only of registered voters.

- 21a. Do you think investigations of misconduct against President Clinton are the result of significant ethical lapses on his part, or represent mostly partisan attempts to damage him?

Significant ethical lapses.....	35	[84]
Mostly partisan attempts to damage him. .	49	
Some of both (VOL).....	12	
Not sure.....	4	

- 21b. As you may know, Paula Jones has filed a lawsuit claiming that President Clinton sexually harassed her when he was governor of Arkansas and she was a state employee. In your view, should the lawsuit against President Clinton be heard while he is in office, or should it be delayed until Bill Clinton is no longer president?

Lawsuit should be heard while Clinton in office.....	39	[85]
Lawsuit should be delayed until Clinton no longer in office....	57	
Not sure.....	4	

- 22a. How confident are you that Newt Gingrich has the right set of personal characteristics to be speaker of the House of Representatives--extremely confident, quite confident, only somewhat confident, or not at all confident?

Extremely confident.....	5	[86]
Quite confident.....	13	
Only somewhat confident.....	41	
Not at all confident.....	37	
Not sure.....	4	

- 22b. How confident are you in Newt Gingrich's honesty and truthfulness--very confident, fairly confident, just somewhat confident, or not confident?

Very confident.....	6	[87]
Fairly confident.....	15	
Just somewhat confident.....	36	
Not confident.....	40	
Not sure.....	3	

- 23a. Do you think investigations of misconduct against Speaker Gingrich are the result of significant ethical lapses on his part, or represent mostly partisan attempts to damage him?

Significant ethical lapses.....	49	[88]
Mostly partisan attempts to damage him. .	32	
Some of both (VOL).....	13	
Not sure.....	6	

- 23b. As you may know, Speaker Gingrich recently admitted to violating House rules in his political fundraising practices. As a result, the bipartisan House Ethics Committee recommended that Speaker Gingrich be reprimanded and fined three hundred thousand dollars. In your view, was this punishment too severe, too lenient, or about right?

Too severe.....	13	[89]
Too lenient.....	27	
About right.....	56	
Not sure.....	4	

- 23c. Do you think Speaker Gingrich should be able to pay his three hundred thousand dollar fine using his campaign funds, or should he have to pay the fine from his personal funds? *

Should be able to use campaign funds.....	9	[90]
Should have to use his personal funds.....	84	
Some of both (VOL).....	3	
Not sure.....	4	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

- 23d. In your opinion, should Newt Gingrich continue to serve as speaker of the House of Representatives, or should he be replaced as speaker? **

Should continue to serve.....	43	[91]
Should be replaced.....	51	
Not sure.....	6	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

- 24a. Compared to twenty years ago, do you think the American political system today is more influenced by special interest money, less influenced by special interest money, or is the level of influence about the same as it was twenty years ago?

More influenced today.....	68	[92]
Less influenced today.....	4	
About the same.....	24	
Not sure.....	4	

- 24b. Which party do you think is more influenced by special interests and lobbyists--the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?

	<u>1/97</u>	<u>11/96+</u>	<u>1/93</u>	
Democratic Party.....	27	32	32	[93]
Republican Party.....	28	29	34	
Both equally (VOL).....	36	28	23	
Not sure.....	9	11	11	

+ Asked only of registered voters.

- 25a. I'm going to read you some changes that have been proposed to reform the way political campaigns are run in this country. For each one, please tell me how effective you think it would be in reforming the system of campaign funding -- very effective, fairly effective, just somewhat effective, or not effective at all? First, **(READ ITEM.)** How effective would this be in reforming the system of campaign funding -- very effective, fairly effective, just somewhat effective, or not effective at all?

	Very Effective	Fairly Effective	Just Somewhat Effective	Not Effective At All	Not Sure	
Limiting the amount of money a wealthy candidate can spend on his or her own campaign *.....	39	20	20	18	3	[94]
Lifting all limits on political contributions, provided that there is full public disclosure *.....	28	19	22	26	5	[95]
Banning political action committees, or PACs *....	27	18	23	19	13	[96]
Limiting the amount of money candidates can spend in an election **.....	52	20	18	8	2	[97]
Banning contributions from all foreign nationals **	55	13	17	11	4	[98]
Providing candidates with free TV time to explain their views **.....	43	20	18	16	3	[99]
Providing taxpayer financing to pay the costs of campaigns for candidates that accept spending limits **.....	16	16	23	39	6	[100]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

- 25b. Should labor unions be allowed to use a portion of members' dues to support political causes and issues of interest to the labor movement?

Should be allowed to use members' dues.....	32	[101]
Should not be allowed to use members' dues.....	63	
Not sure.....	5	

- 25c. In a 1976 ruling, the Supreme Court of the United States determined that campaign spending is a matter of free speech and that Congress cannot regulate how much money is spent on political campaigns. Do you agree or disagree with that ruling?

Agree.....	30	[102]
Disagree.....	65	
Not sure.....	5	

26. As you may know, the Democratic Party has returned several hundred thousand dollars in campaign contributions, including many contributions from foreign nationals, after deciding they were illegally submitted or were of a questionable nature. Do you think President Clinton should be held responsible for these campaign contributions, or do you think he should not be held responsible?

Should be held responsible.....	44	[103]
Should not be held responsible.....	51	
Not sure.....	5	

Q. 27 - 29b. Embargoed By NBC News Until Week of February 17

27. Do you regularly use the Internet or other on-line computer information services, either at home or at work?

Yes, use on-line services.....	28	CONTINUE	[104]
No, do not use on-line services.....	71	SKIP TO Q.29a.	
Not sure.....	1		

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THEY USE THE INTERNET OR ON-LINE SERVICES IN Q.27.)

- 28a. Overall, how would you describe your feelings when you use the Internet -- very satisfied, fairly satisfied, somewhat satisfied, or not satisfied at all?

Very satisfied.....	30	[105]
Fairly satisfied.....	32	
Somewhat satisfied.....	28	
Not satisfied at all.....	8	
Not sure.....	2	

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THEY USE THE INTERNET OR ON-LINE SERVICES IN Q.27.)

- 28b. I am going to read you a list of ways that people use the Internet. Please tell me in which one of the following ways the Internet has been most useful to you? **(READ ITEMS.)**

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Research or education.....	50	[106]
E-mail.....	21	
Financial or business services.....	12	
Entertainment.....	10	
Up-to-date news.....	3	
Socializing.....	3	
Shopping.....	-	
None of these (VOL).....	-	
Not sure.....	1	

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THEY USE THE INTERNET OR ON-LINE SERVICES IN Q.27.)

- 28c. And which of the following do you think is the biggest problem with using the Internet? **(READ ITEMS.)**

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Getting connected is difficult.....	31	[107]
Once connected, the Internet is too slow.....	25	
It is hard to find things that are interesting.....	11	SKIP TO
Things on the Internet do not always work.....	7	FACTUALS
It is not worth the money.....	6	
Other Internet users are sometimes unpleasant.....	5	
All/None of these (VOL).....	12	
Not sure.....	3	

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO DO NOT SAY THEY USE THE INTERNET OR ON-LINE SERVICES IN Q.27.)

29a. Which of the following statements best explains why you do not use the Internet?

Statement A: I do not have access to the Internet.

Statement B: I do not know how to use the Internet.

Statement C: I am not interested in what is on the Internet.

Statement A: Do not have access.....	48	[108]
Statement B: Do not know how to use.	9	
Statement C: Not interested.....	26	
More than one (VOL).....	11	
Not sure.....	6	

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO DO NOT SAY THEY USE THE INTERNET OR ON-LINE SERVICES IN Q.27.)

29b. Do you think you will or will not use the Internet in the next year?

Will use the Internet.....	38	[109]
Will not use the Internet.....	52	
Not sure.....	10	

Q. 27 - 29b. Embargoed By NBC News Until Week of February 17

(ASK EVERYONE)

FACTUALS: Now I am going to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only.

F1. What is the last grade you completed in school?

Grade school.....	1	{201}
Some high school.....	7	
High school graduate.....	30	
Some college, no degree.....	19	
Vocational training, 2-year college.....	12	
4-year college/bachelor's degree.....	17	
Some postgraduate work, no degree.....	2	
2-3 years' postgraduate work, master's degree.....	9	
Doctoral degree/law degree.....	2	
Not sure.....	1	

F2. How old are you? **(IF REFUSED, ASK:)** Well, can you tell me which age group you belong to? Are you in the age group 18 to 24, 25 to 29, 30 to 34, 35 to 39, 40 to 44, 45 to 49, 50 to 54, 55 to 59, 60 to 64, or 65 and over?

18-24.....	12	{202}
25-29.....	10	
30-34.....	11	
35-39.....	11	
40-44.....	10	
45-49.....	9	
50-54.....	7	
55-59.....	6	
60-64.....	5	
65 and over.....	17	
Refused.....	2	

F3. Are you currently employed?

(IF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED:) What type of work do you do?

(IF NOT CURRENTLY EMPLOYED:) Are you a student, a homemaker, retired, or unemployed and looking for work?

<u>Currently Employed</u>		
Professional/manager.....	28	{203}
White collar worker.....	15	
Blue collar worker.....	20	
Farmer.....	1	
<u>Not Currently Employed</u>		
Student.....	4	
Homemaker.....	7	
Retired.....	20	
Unemployed.....	3	
Never worked/not sure.....	2	

F4. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, an independent, or something else?

(IF "DEMOCRAT" OR "REPUBLICAN," ASK:) Would you call yourself a strong (Democrat/Republican) or not a very strong (Democrat/Republican)? **(IF "NOT SURE," CODE AS "NOT VERY STRONG DEMOCRAT/ REPUBLICAN.")**

(IF "INDEPENDENT," ASK:) Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party, closer to the Democratic Party, or do you think of yourself as strictly independent? **(IF "NOT SURE," CODE AS "STRICTLY INDEPENDENT.")**

Strong Democrat.....	19	{205}
Not very strong Democrat.....	12	
Independent/lean Democrat.....	7	
Strictly independent.....	21	
Independent/lean Republican.....	9	
Not very strong Republican.....	12	
Strong Republican.....	13	
Other.....	4	
Not sure/nothing.....	3	

F5. In politics today, do you generally consider yourself to be very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, very conservative, or do you think your views cannot really be described in those terms?

Very liberal.....	7	{206}
Somewhat liberal.....	18	
Moderate.....	28	
Somewhat conservative.....	22	
Very conservative.....	10	
Views cannot be described in those terms....	11	
Not sure.....	4	

F6. Are you currently registered to vote in the precinct or election district in which you now live, or haven't you had a chance to register yet?

Registered	83	{207}
Not registered.....	15	
Not sure.....	2	

F7a. Did you happen to vote in the 1996 presidential election?

(IF "YES," ASK:) For whom did you vote -- Bill Clinton, the Democrat, Bob Dole, the Republican, or Ross Perot, the Reform Party candidate?

Yes, Voted			
Bill Clinton.....	38		{208}
Bob Dole	27	CONTINUE	
Ross Perot.....	5		
Other (VOL)/not sure/refused.....	5		
No, Did Not Vote	21	SKIP TO	
Not Sure If Voted/Refused	4	Q.F8.	

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO SAY THEY VOTED IN Q.F7a.)

F7b. In the 1996 election for U.S. House of Representatives, did you vote for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate in your district?

Democratic candidate.....	33	{209}
Republican candidate.....	32	
Another candidate (VOL).....	1	
Didn't vote in House election (VOL).....	3	
Not sure.....	6	
Did Not Vote/Refused (Q.F7a).....	25	

(ASK EVERYONE:)

F8. What is your marital status--are you single and never married, married, separated, divorced, or widowed?

Single.....	22	{211}
Married.....	57	
Separated.....	1	
Divorced.....	10	
Widowed.....	8	
Not sure/refused.....	2	

F9a. In what religion were you brought up?

Protestant.....	52	CONTINUE	{212}
Catholic.....	31		
Jewish.....	2		
Other.....	7	SKIP TO Q.F10.	
None.....	5		
Not sure/refused.....	3		

(ASK ONLY OF PROTESTANTS IN Q.F9a)

F9b. Would you describe yourself as either a fundamentalist or an evangelical Christian, or would you not describe yourself that way?

Yes, fundamentalist/evangelical/both	18	{213}
No, neither fundamentalist or evangelical.....	30	
Not sure.....	4	
Non-Protestant (Q.F9a).....	48	

(ASK EVERYONE:)

F10. Are you, or is any member of your household, a member of a labor union?

Labor union member.....	13	{215}
Labor union household.....	8	
Nonunion household.....	77	
Not sure.....	2	

F11. For each of the following descriptions I read, please tell me if this applies to you personally. First, **(READ ITEM)** -- does that apply to you or doesn't it?

	<u>Applies</u>	<u>Does Not Apply</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
A supporter of conservative Christian political organizations, such as the Christian Coalition.....	13	82	5	[110]
Have children under age 18 living in your household.....	36	62	2	[111]
Have at least five thousand dollars invested in mutual funds or stocks.	40	55	5	[112]

F12a. Are you white, black, Hispanic, Asian, or something else?

White.....	79	SKIP TO Q.F13.	{220}
Black.....	11	CONTINUE	
Hispanic.....	5		
Asian.....	1	SKIP TO Q.F13.	
Other.....	2		
Not sure/refused.....	2		

(ASK ONLY OF BLACK RESPONDENTS IN Q.F12a:)

F12b. When someone refers to your race, do you prefer to be referred to as black, African American, or do you prefer some other term?

	<u>1/97</u>	<u>9/94</u>	<u>6/94</u>	<u>6/93</u>	<u>5/92</u>	<u>7/90</u>	
Black.....	29	41	38	37	58	59	[113]
African-American.....	39	32	33	28	23	25]
Some other term.....	9	7	7	9	11	8	
Doesn't make any difference (VOL).....	20	15	20	24	-	NA	
Not sure/refused.....	3	5	2	2	8	8	

(ASK EVERYONE:)

F13. If you added together the yearly income of all the members of your family who were living at home last year, would the total be less than \$10,000, between \$10,000 and \$20,000, between \$20,000 and \$30,000, between \$30,000 and \$40,000, between \$40,000 and \$50,000, between \$50,000 and \$75,000, between \$75,000 and \$100,000, or would the total be more than that?

Less than \$10,000.....	6	{221}
Between \$10,000 and \$20,000.....	10	
Between \$20,000 and \$30,000.....	15	
Between \$30,000 and \$40,000.....	14	
Between \$40,000 and \$50,000.....	11	
Between \$50,000 and \$75,000.....	18	
Between \$75,000 and \$100,000.....	7	
More than \$100,000.....	6	
Not sure/refused.....	13	